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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

A WOMAN'S PEACE PARTY

A party of women has been formed to protest against all war and to voice that revolt against its stupidities which must have been secretly nursed by women in all ages, but must perforce have been suppressed until today, when the rising power of women is becoming organized, self-conscious and articulate. In this party Jane Addams is prominent, as also is Lillian D. Wald, head of the Henry Street Settlement, who represents nurses in so many extra-professional movements.

The women of Holland, among whom Miss Van Lanschot Hubrecht, also a nurse, is active, have issued a call in answer to appeals coming to them from many countries for an International Women's Congress to meet in Holland in the latter part of April to frame the protest. Miss Addams is going there, and earnest persuasions have centered upon Miss Wald to go too, but it is hardly possible that she can do so. Part of the proclamation put forth by the Women's Peace Party runs as follows:

As women, we are especially the custodians of the life of the ages; we will not longer consent to its reckless destruction. As women we are particularly charged with the future of childhood and with the care of the helpless and the unfortunate. We will not longer accept without protest that added burden of maimed and invalid men and poverty stricken widows and orphans which war places upon us.

As women, we have builded by the patient drudgery of the past the basic foundation of the home and of peaceful industry. We will not longer endure without a protest which must be heard and heeded by men that hoary evil which in an hour destroys the social structure that centuries of toil have reared.

As women, we are called upon to start each generation onward toward a better humanity. We will not longer without determined opposition suffer that denial of the sovereignty of reason and justice by which war and all that makes for war today render impotent the idealism of the race.

Therefore, as human beings and the mother half of humanity, we demand that our right to be considered in the settlement of questions concerning not alone the life of individuals but of nations be recognized and respected.

We demand that women be given a share in deciding between war and peace in all the courts of high debate; within the home, the school, the church, the industrial order, and the State.

THE PROTEST OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Soon after the war broke out Miss Wald, Miss Addams and Paul U. Kellogg of *The Survey* issued a call to social workers to meet at the Henry Street House and outline the war's wreckage of the upbuilding movements to which their lives were given. The indictment that they brought against war was built into a sublime and sternly beautiful piece of English prose by Mr. Kellogg and is published in a pamphlet which should be read everywhere. It is reprinted from *The Survey* of March 6, and the symbolic crest stamped upon it is that given to Miss Wald in Japan as the symbol of universal brotherhood, and adopted by the Henry Street House as its seal or stamp. The list of war's blights, injuries, wrongs, and evils burns with a white heat, yet war, it is declared, may be abolished just as the one-time rite of human sacrifice was abolished.

Beside war's colossal outrages on humanity, there is in the medical field, it seems to me, distinct cause for the banning of war by a World's Health Department, if we shall ever have such a thing, as is indeed not improbable, and this shall be on the ground that war is a most prolific cause of diseases and pestilences. To forbid war on behalf of public health will only be to go a little further than our splendid State and City Health Departments now go under Dr. Biggs and Dr. Goldwater.

As a result of the European War, there are reappearances of ailments that were practically non-existent. Gaseous gangrene, never seen in surgery now-a-days, has come again. Worst of all, true typhus fever rages. The important thing about this infectious disease is that it is an unerring sign of the presence of the most complete human misery. Prolonged and widespread starvation, exposure and wretchedness supreme are needed as the soil on which typhus spreads. To be sure it is carried by vermin, and worthy philanthropists are now sending tons of vermicides, new clothes, and sterilizers to combat it. There are always vermin somewhere, but never typhus except where hunger and misery rage. When we know how surely and certainly these diseases are caused by men's own acts and deeds, does it not seem as if we should say, "Man's actions have produced gas-gangrene and typhus;" instead of the flabby statement, "Typhus is prevalent; gas-gangrene is developing." Seeing such ruthless and dastardly energies at work, does one not understand Florence Nightingale's impatient contempt for the germ theory, and comprehend her insistence that it was the things people did that caused disease?

We cannot follow her in rejecting entirely the humble germs, but we do echo her in declaring that too much blame is laid on them and

too little on the creatures of brains, intelligence and will, who deliberately, for selfish or ferocious purposes, turn the world into a hotbed of preventible diseases. And so we demand a World Health Board to forbid war on sanitary grounds as a disease-producing nuisance.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

Two well-known and favorite members of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Miss Beatrice Kent and Miss Annie Hulme, have been appointed to attend the San Francisco meetings and assist the American members of the International Council in planning for the next reunion. They have been instructed to vote in acceptance of the Danish nurses' invitation to meet in Denmark in 1918, and to propose the name of Mrs. Henny Tscherning, their president, as International President for the coming triennial. Miss Kent and Miss Hulme will arrive in New York about May 29 and will spend a week there. Miss Kent has translated Sister Henrietta Arendt's book "White Child Slaves" which has been reviewed in these columns, and will arrange to have it published here.

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